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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND IMMIGRATION
WORKING COMMITTEE AT THE SECRETARIAT LEVEL

First Meeting
Santiago, Chile

Note on Item (a) of the Terms of Reference

1. Item (a) of its terms of reference require the ECIA Working Committee to study the relation between the economic development of Latin America and immigration. The Economic Survey of Latin America 1949 examines certain theoretical implications of the process of economic development in Latin America and studies long-term trends of development for several countries. The Secretariat is continuing these studies. There is a certain amount of existing material bearing upon immigration and settlement in Latin America, and a good deal of work has been done in the general economic field on the theory of optimum population and the economics of migration. There exists, however, at present no study of the relation between economic development in Latin America and immigration.

2. Studies of the relation between economic development and immigration on a world-wide basis are also lacking, and it should be noted that the ILO at the Preliminary Migration Conference held in May of this year requested a joint study between the United Nations and the ILO on the relation between economic development and immigration. Later, at the 11th Session of the Economic and Social Council, a resolution was passed

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asking the Secretary General to make studies on the inter-relation of the demographic economic and social factors in migration and on adequate practical methods of international financing of European migration. In view of the important place which Latin America occupies in the problem of economic development in relation to migration, the Economic Department and the Social Affairs Department of the United Nations have asked to be kept in close touch with the Committee's work because of its bearing upon the general studies which they have been asked to make. The representative of the Specialised Agencies on the Committee will no doubt wish to maintain similar liaison with their Headquarters which are also concerned in the general studies requested by the Economic and Social Council and the ILO.

3. At its first meeting the Committee might usefully (a) review generally the existing material on this subject (a bibliography and list of documents is contained in ST/ECIA/CI/3/Add. 1 (b) consider the circumstances leading up to the request for this study (see background paper ST/ECIA/CI/2 and (c) start to lay out Chapter headings and a synopsis of the study. A draft will be circulated later for this purpose (ST/ECIA/CI/3/Add.2).